



**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Julie Hathaway, MD, PhD Interim Chair; Mary D. Hart, RN ; Celia Bird, APRN, Patrick Payne; Jenny Tomczak, MPH

**HEALTH OFFICER**

William Ward, Director of Permitting & Inspections

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF  
BURLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH**

**In Person and Virtual Meeting**

**Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

**Attending:** *William Ward, Celia Bird, Julie Hathaway, Jenny Tomczak, Pat Payne, Mary Hart, Celeste Crowley*

**Absent:**

Meeting called to order by Interim Chair Hathaway at 6:36 PM

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION TAKEN
1. Approvals: a. Agenda b. Approval of August Minutes	a. October Agenda – Approved with motion to allow item 3 to be time certain.  b. September meeting Minutes – Approved with correction; Mary Hart absent.	Patrick motioned, Mary 2 <sup>nd</sup> . ~Approved with amendments  Mary motioned, Patrick 2 <sup>nd</sup> . ~Approved with amendments
2. Public Forum	There were no public attendees	
3. Public Health Equity Manager – Marielle Matthews, MPH	The Board members asked Marielle Matthews the Public Health Equity Manager from the City’s Racial Equity Inclusion and Belonging Department (REIB), to join our meeting and discuss how the Board of Health can assist the REIB in addressing racism as a public health concern.  She gave us her background experience in community public health as well as where her focus is for Burlington’s public health equity.  Marielle and Nyla Ruiz, REIB’s Health Equity & Engagement Manager, have put together an 8 month plan to fund the gap in	

	<p>public health needs. They are working on a proposal to help fund the public health disparities in the city. They are collecting data and engaging the community to find the gaps and the demographics that it affects.</p> <p>The Board of Health discussed ways that they can be helpful to the REIB and public health for our BIPOC community.</p> <p>Where would the BOH be helpful or when do we step in on any given issue? Ally with organizations to strengthen the impact of their message. Be decisive and actionable on a daily basis to eradicate systemic racism. Be inclusive of the BIPOC communities via communication; ie publish translated documents so they are aware of the Board of Health discussions, and translate educational materials/flyers on public health issues.</p>	
<p>4. Historic Board of Health Overview – Bill Ward</p>	<p>Bill presented the history of the Board of Health. He reviewed the statutes, charters, and ordinances that state the Board of Health’s composition, purpose, and authorities as summarized below, from the BOH web page:</p> <p>“Burlington’s City Council appoints a five member, citizen advisory group known as the Burlington Board of Health. Each member may serve unlimited, three-year terms at the discretion of the Council. A chairman of the board is elected at the discretion of its members.</p> <p>The Board of Health coordinates foremost with the Code and Housing Division of the Permitting &amp; Inspections Department, and then with other city and state offices and programs. The Board of Health reviews and approves all health order requests by the Health Officers and hears and decides the first level of appeal on such orders. The Board of Health may recommend health-related rules and regulations, ordinances and policies. The Board of Health cooperates with local and state organizations to provide public discussion and education. And finally, the Board of Health considers for recommendation to the Vermont Department</p>	

	<p>of Health all applicants for city Health Officers.</p> <p>The Board of Health has limited statutory responsibility for the “prevention, removal or destruction of public health hazards and the mitigation of public health risks.” The Board of Health receives its authority from Vermont statute, Title 18, as well as from several sections of the Burlington City Charter.</p> <p><b>The mission of the Board of Health is to educate the citizens of Burlington and to promote, improve and protect their health and well-being while contributing toward building a healthy community and environment in which to live.”</b></p>	
5. Eradicating Systemic Racism	There was no formal discussion. The presentation by Marielle led to various topics and conversations related to eradicating racism and the direct health impact it has on our communities.	
6. Emerging Issues	<p>Add to Public Outreach/Communications agenda item;</p> <p>Discuss NNE FPF regarding finding needles and who to contact for disposal.</p> <p>Add SeeClickFix link to Board of Health page on City website.</p>	
7. Public Outreach / Communications a. Front Porch Forum	No specific discussion other than the item 6 topics of interest.	
8. Next Meeting	The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 18 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm	Meet via Zoom and in person at 645 Pine St
9. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm	Mary motioned, Jenny 2 <sup>nd</sup> .